

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. By this Amendment, claim 7 has been amended, claims 1-6 and 12-16 have been canceled, and new claims 17-27 have been added. Thus, claims 7-11 and 17-27 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Wetters et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,336,473). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As amended, independent claim 7 recites an electric motor having a ventilation system which inhibits generation of noise. The motor includes, among other things, a fan mounted on a rotor shaft to advance a flow of cooling air through the housing to cool the motor. The fan has a central hub and a plurality of blades. A baffle is secured in the housing at a position generally between the stator and the fan. The blades of the fan are spaced from the hub thereby forming a clearance region between the hub and the blades *with the baffle directing the flow of cooling air through the clearance region.* (Emphasis added).

Wetters fails to disclose a baffle directing a flow of cooling air through a clearance region formed between the blades and hub of a fan. Instead, Wetters merely discloses an electric motor of a motor-pump assembly having a fan 63 and a baffle 71. The fan 63 includes a flat disc part 66, an annular plate 67 spaced above the part 66,

and a plurality of spaced blades 68. See column 3 lines 58-63. The Office Action contends that part 66 represents a hub and that blades 68 are spaced from the part 66 thereby forming a clearance region, which is not numbered. Even assuming, arguendo, this contention to be true, Wetters fails to disclose its baffle 71 as directing a flow of cooling air through the (unnumbered) clearance region. On the contrary, Fig. 1 of Wetters appears to illustrate holes in the outer periphery of the plate 67 which permit air flow therethrough. When the rotor shaft and the fan 63 rotate, the air is drawn downwardly through the holes in the outer periphery of the annular plate 67. The air is then thrown radially outwardly by the blades 68, and then flows into the bearing area and out the slots 64. See column 3, line 64 through column 4, line 1.

Wetters lacks any disclosure of air flow through the (unnumbered) clearance region formed between the hub 66 and the blades 68. Therefore, Wetters fails to disclose a baffle directing a flow of cooling air through a clearance region formed between the blades and hub of a fan, as recited by claim 7. For this reason, Wetters fails to anticipate claim 7.

Claims 7-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakamura et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,336,473). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, amended claim 7 recites an electric motor comprising, among other things, a fan mounted on a rotor shaft.

Nakamura clearly fails to disclose a fan mounted on a rotor shaft. The Office action contends that Nakamura's impeller 60 is a fan. However, the impeller 60 is clearly not coupled to the shaft 22. Instead, a separate drive section 56, which is normally composed of an electric motor, is provided for driving the impeller 60. See

column 3, lines 34-36. Accordingly, Nakamura fails to disclose a fan mounted on a rotor shaft. For this reason alone, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claim 7, and claims 8-9 which depend therefrom, should be withdrawn.

NEW CLAIMS 17-27

By this Amendment, new claims 17-27 have been added. Claims 17-24 depend from independent claim 7 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 7.

New claim 25 recites an electric motor comprising, among other things, a fan mounted on a rotor shaft and a baffle. A portion of the baffle extends radially inward from the housing and is positioned axially above a portion of the fan forming an axial gap therebetween. As noted above, Wetters merely discloses a baffle 71 positioned between the fan 63 and a shell 21. However, the baffle 71 is not positioned axially above the fan 63, and does not form an axial gap between the baffle 71 and the fan 63. Additionally, Nakamura fails to disclose a fan mounted on a rotor shaft. Accordingly, claim 25, and claims 26-27 which depend therefrom, are patentable over Wetters and Nakamura.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

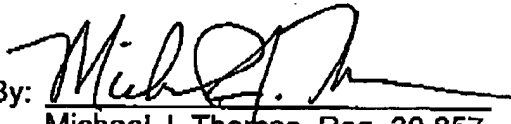
Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's favorable indication that claim 11 recites allowable subject matter. However, in light of the amendments and remarks provided herein, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are allowable and that the subject application is now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (314) 726-7500.

Respectfully submitted,

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